

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

William R. Tracy, Treasurer National Cotton Council Committee for The Advancement of Cotton 1918 N. Parkway, PO Box 12292 Memphis, TN 38182

JUN 14 2000

Identification Number:

C00023028

Reference: April Quarterly Report (1/1/00-3/31/00)

Dear Mr. Tracy:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

-Schedule A of your report (pertinent portions attached) discloses an apparent contribution(s) from a corporation(s). 2 U.S.C. §441b(a) prohibits the receipt of contributions from corporations unless made from a separate segregated fund established by the corporation.

If the contribution(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. If you have received a corporate contribution(s), you must transfer-out the impermissible funds to an account not used to influence federal elections or refund the full amount to the donor(s) in accordance with 11 CFR §103.3(b). In the best interest of your committee, all transfers-out and refunds should be made within thirty days of the treasurer's receipt of the impermissible funds. In order to protect the donor's interests, the Commission recommends that you inform the contributor(s) in writing to provide the donor(s) with the option of receiving a refund or granting written authorization for a transfer to another account.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in

writing and provide a photocopy of your check for the transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of a prohibited contribution, prompt action by your committee to transfer-out or refund the amount will be taken into consideration.

-Schedule B supporting Line 23 of your report discloses a contribution(s) to a candidate(s) for the 2000 primary election; however, the funds were disbursed after the election date(s) (pertinent portion(s) attached). Please note that contributions may not be designated for an election which has already occurred unless the funds are to be used to reduce a candidate committee's debts incurred during that election campaign. Please clarify the contribution(s) and disclose any redesignations or refunds as necessary on the appropriate schedules.

-Line 11(a)(i) of the Detailed Summary Page of your report discloses a total of \$20,814.08 in itemized contributions from individuals. The sum of the entries itemized on Schedule A, however, indicates the total to be \$15,614.08. Please amend your report to clarify the discrepancy.

Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR

NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COTTON Page 3

§104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

A written response or an amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,

Lifey J. Denny Reports Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

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